

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraphs [0119]-[0124] with the following:

[0119] FIGS. 14-19 are flow charts diagramming the operation of an embodiment of the method of the present invention. FIG. 14 is a top level flow chart diagramming the operation of an embodiment of the computer network and equipment monitoring method and system of the present invention. At step 1400 ~~400~~, system initialization occurs. The initialization process can be run at power-up. The one-time setup of the processor, peripherals, and software can be performed at initialization.

[0120] The top-level of the program of the method of the present invention can consist of an infinite loop. Each time through the loop, the program can check for network messages. The program also contains a clock. This clock can be checked each time through the loop. When the clock reaches a certain time interval, such as a one-second interval shown in step 1404 ~~404~~ of FIG. 14, the program can be configured to read the sensors, perform required calculations, and check for alarm conditions, as discussed below.

[0121] At step 1402 ~~402~~, the method of this invention continuously polls the Ethernet hardware to check for incoming network messages. When a network message arrives, the program can launch a new process and pass the received message to the new process. This new process can act on the message based on the message request.

[0122] At step 1406 ~~406~~, the method of this invention can read the temperature and all other channels of the analog-to-digital converter once per second, as determined at step 1404 ~~404~~. The program computes the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, relative humidity in %, and air flow (on or off).

[0123] The method of the present invention can maintain a list of user-specified thresholds for each monitored quantity. At step 1408 ~~408~~, the method checks the sensor readings against the relevant thresholds to determine if an alarm condition exists. The method of this invention performs this check at a preset interval, as determined at step 1404 ~~404~~. The method of this

invention can generate an email report when one of the sensors is outside its corresponding threshold value.

[0124] At step 1408 ~~408~~ the program checks for alarm conditions once per second, but can be set for other time periods, but only if the program hasn't recognized any alarm conditions in the past 5 minutes. This limiting condition prevents the recipients of the email reports that get generated from being inundated with one email per second. The program could just check for alarm conditions once every 5 minutes; but this would mean that up to 5 minutes could go by from the time an alarm condition occurs and the device actually recognizes the condition and tries to notify someone.